

The Oregon Mist

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ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY BY
E. H. FLAGG,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

County Official Paper

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E. B. Tongue.....District Attorney

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THE SPECULATOR'S BLIGHT.

What the Timber Barons Have Done
For the Nehalem Valley.

VERNONIA, Mar. 15, 1909.

ENTER MIST.—Taking your two last items in the Mist of last week, "Change in School Law" and "A Private Tutor," I wish to say something upon the school and other things in the Nehalem Valley. It is as you say, "the trouble with the Nehalem country is that it is in the hands of the timber speculators." The timber land here began to be bought up by these gentlemen, most of whom are Easterners and do not intend to develop, about six years ago, since when there has been a general exchange of quarter sections at from \$200 to \$4000 during the past year. Most of the numbers we have sold have moved out of the valley to where they could better fit themselves and their families. They've made a count not long ago and there have moved nearly one hundred whole families, to say nothing of the many, many young men and young ladies who have gone from other families while there have moved into the valley only ten or fifteen new families. This is an already sparsely settled region & almost depreciated the value, at least it has made a tremendous hole in the population. But new men of all kinds—the merchant, the druggist, the doctor, the dentist, the blacksmith, the carpenter, as well as the common laborer, feel the loss very severely. It is a serious question with them as to whether they had not better move out, too. Some are already to go. In fact I think it is a truth when I say there is not a business man in the city of Vernonia who would not sell out and go with any deal offered. Nearly everyone in business here has had to do either the one or the other in order to maintain himself, and tends to their enterprise they have done quite well financially. Of course the coming of a railroad will no doubt bring the valley as there is now a glimmering prospect, will turn the tide of emigration the other way and things will be changed, but the writer does not expect to see your prospectus immediately follow the coming of a railroad, for as indicated above most of the present owners of the timber lands are not developers, simply speculators. But it will be the beginning, and our people who are here and cannot get away or who have fathomed the valley's resources will welcome it or the word of warning for this department at least, a short while, for there are in the present writing more than fifty houses, including child, in and out of Vernonia, who have already been sold and the Seaboard and the Pacific lines. The former, by the way, is a big one. Now, we can not imagine there is not some living in the district, and let us say with three children in the old Nehalem over districts. What ought to be done in regard to the schools in this part of the country is rather a subtle question. It has always been hard to get good teachers to come into the valley, because wages have not been paid so well as like to get off easy from unskilled population. They like to be where things are going on. One of the very best schools in this region, with a new school house and a newly trained corps, and the like, is about to pay good wages, has been unable this winter to get any kind of teacher, and they have tried hard. As I say, this man superintendent Aukerman has begun to put the screws on his superintendents before they may be sent to another state. Just recently he has taken out of his employment in Columbia County and has gone to working from home and school. They say the question was a difficult one. The writer has looked them over and thinks they were a little anxious—evidently not hard. "Oh, but that spelling?" That was not a single word causing a difficulty. The eighty or so words in which the examiners were requested to make were such as the teacher's certificate of attainments to be sent to the state. "For these words not taken from the paper." No, that's true, but that was words in common use. Some of the teachers went down on questions of current history, for example, "What has been the recent contention between the President and Congress?"

Superintendent Aukerman has said that the teachers of Oregon shall be up

to date in all things. As I said above it may be more difficult to get a good teacher here in the Nehalem in the future than it has been in the past. The remedy? Consolidation of districts. There are three districts in and around Vernonia that ought to be made into one, and that at once, but the probability is, if a vote were taken at the coming June election the proposition would fail. I do not have the figures at hand, but I think there are only about fifty pupils in all three districts. If the new school law carries with it as is intended a six months minimum school term for each, it will cost the people of the three districts for teachers alone \$900 and at a low estimate another \$100 for running expenses, or \$20 a pupil. One teacher that was not for having all the grades in one room to teach could handle the whole lot easily. Two with the grades divided between them could do it easily, while the running expenses would be cut in three. This would reduce the cost to about \$12.50 per pupil and give each pupil a much better service. But this consolidation should not only include these three but the district between here and Pittsburg, either in part or all of the lower Rock Creek district and parts of the old Beaver district. Then the upper part of Rock creek district should be joined on the upper Rock creek district and the upper part of Beaver and Kist should be made into one, if that could be done and then a way provided as the school law contemplates to get the children to school, a much better service could be had all around. Better teachers could be employed because better wages could be paid and the burden upon the tax-payers would be greatly reduced.

While discussing the school question I wish to call attention to another thing I do not know what it is in other parts of the country or state, but directors here always have been and are still ignorant, willfully, or otherwise violating the school law and their oaths of office in regard to the admission of pupils from other districts. I think all the boards in this immediate vicinity are guilty. Prior to 1905 boards had a right to admit pupils as they saw fit and upon such terms as they might set. Generally they would admit a pupil for 50 cents a month, never stopping to think that they were paying for the instruction each of their own pupils from \$3 to \$5 per month, nor by taking in pupils from other districts they were actually robbing their own pupils of valuable time and instruction. It has been done with the idea that every child should have all the schooling it can get. And so it had, but boards have no right to take from one pupils to give to outside pupils and it is the duty of every district to provide at least a six months school in some way. This is so that there would be no call for this trading around. There is not a district within this part of the valley that could not have so provided during the past five years by a very small special tax. We have been taxing ourselves for rods why not have done so for our children? But in 1905 the legislature passed a law, see Sec. 104, which provides that boards of directors cannot admit pupils from other districts except upon application from the board of the district from which the pupil is to come, and only upon such terms as may be agreed upon by such boards, the two boards entering into a contract upon which is furnished by the State Superintendent, the board from whence pupil comes agreeing to pay the expense incurred out of its general school fund. The writer knows that boards around Vernonia seem to think that this law does not apply to them, as he has submitted it to the County Superintendent and to the State Superintendent and perhaps the Attorney General and the answer has come back, "Your interpretation of Sec. 104 is correct. Board can not admit pupils from other districts except upon application from the district from whence the pupil is to come and terms agreed upon and a contract entered into."

Why did we legislate laws such as this? To stop this running around from district to district, to save the time of the teachers to the home pupils, to compel districts to have at least six months of school. The law was passed, not to deprive any pupil of schooling, but to give all pupils more schooling. The amendment to the school law passed at the recent session wherein each district is to get \$1,000 instead of \$500 and the \$1 per pupil and the irreducible State funds remain the same and the county court is compelled to levy enough tax for each district to make a \$300 fund for teachers salary in districts where these other funds will not make it. The writer thinks the legislature intended to provide a six months term for each district and the means to pay for it. It is a good law, another step in the direction of more and better schools—especially for the country districts. The writer has called attention to these things because he believes the school boards want to be in a way aiding citizens. It would be well for all school officers to read up and put up a little as to their duties, privileges and powers. Upon the question of admission of outside pupils the writer has searched the law through section by section and there is no other way whereby boards can admit except as pointed out in this article. The voice of a district may instruct them to do it under the latter clause of Sec. 111 of an election called for that purpose, but boards are debarred without such a vote.

OCCASIONAL

Call for Warrants

All persons are hereby notified that there are funds on hand to pay all county warrants issued up to March 19, 1909. Interest ceases after this date.

Dated March 19, 1909.

E. H. QUICK,
County Treasurer.

It Saved His Leg.

"All thought I'd lose my leg," writes J. A. Dawson, Watertown, Wis. "Ten years ago that 15 doctors could not remove it and had me up. Then Dr. E. A. Lusk, of Atlanta, Ga., cured it sound and well, infallible for Skin Eruptions, Eczema, Salt Rheum, Bone Fever Sores, Burns, Scalds, Cuts and Piles. 25¢ at Holton, Deer Island, Warren dealers.

A New York paper speaks of "the waterway mania." They have had it to such an extent in Canada that Montreal last year, for the first time, exported wheat when New York City.

Syrup of White Pine and Tar, the old reliable cough remedy. For sale by A. J. Beuning, druggist.

Philadelphian will establish a wireless station on its City Hall tower 537 feet high. It is an ill-fareback that blows nobody good.

COUNTY COURT

Bills allowed March 5th 1909:

General Fund

Circuit Court Jurors

A. P. Usher

A. C. Popejoy

J. F. Rice

J. Skusa

E. Felton

O. A. Miller

J. Q. Gage

N. Coast Lbr Co

W. H. Morris

J. Zeisman

L. Furrier

CC Masten, witness, Blodgett vs Board of Equa.

M. E. Miller, expense Dist Atty

Ray W. Matson, exam shirt etc

for blood

H. P. Watkins, drawing jury,

Union Precinct.

C. H. John, same

W. W. Blakesley same

H. P. Watkins, Justice vs Cox & Cox

F. A. George, constable same

Witnesses State vs Cox & Cox

John Saxton

U. S. Dspani

Linens Carlson

Linens Carlson

H. P. Watkins, Justice, State vs W. Baldwin

H. P. Watkins, Justice, State vs R. H. Hendrickson

H. P. Watkins, Justice, State vs F. H. Watkins, Constable State vs Leppi

F. A. George, constable, State vs Ellis

J. M. Blackford, State vs P. Hendrickson

J. F. Johnson, constable, State vs P. Hendrickson

Jacob George, board of prisoners

G. D. Sutherland, deputy sheriff

I. M. Harris, work for clerk Nov. 4 to Mar. 1

Conner's witnesses R. Livingston

T. C. Watts

F. H. Sherwood, coroner exam P. Danelson

J. L. Woods, physician exam P. Danelson

F. H. Sherwood, coroner exam A. Cole

R. E. Schmidt, physician exam A. Cole

F. H. Sherwood, coroner exam J. R. Thompson

O. H. Byland, ass't teachers and 8th grade exam

Oro-Honda day

Lew Davies, truant officer

J. M. Lindsay, truant officer

J. Jennings & Sons, trimming lumber

Coast Typewriter Co., ribbons

James Dart, premium on insurance

Dart & Mackie supplies for courthouses

A. J. Denning supplies for court house

J. H. Collins postage & Expressage

Glass & Prudhomme book for Sheriff

Mann & Beach hunting license blanks

Irwin & Holden supplies, clerk

\$1.000

Clatskanie Chief, sta. sheriff & school supt

E. H. Flagg sta. sheriff

E. H. Flagg pub notice teacher's exam

E. H. Flagg supplies clerk

E. H. Flagg pub court proceedings

J. H. Wellington supplies

Eugene Mills telephone Jan & Feb.

James Sheldon truck for janitor

W. A. Harris repairs to telephone

J. H. Collins express library books

J. M. Blackford rent for Hopkins Jan & Feb.

Dist. 14,

J. D. Roselair

S. R. Turk

H. Huber

J. R. Thomas

General Road Fund

Beall & Co.

General Fund Bills Rejected

H. Jennings & Sons

Coast Typewriter Co.

J. M. Hill

March 10th, 1909.

Court came pursuant to adjournment.

All members being present.

Same proclamation being made the following proceedings were had:

Matter of settlement with Northern Pacific Railway Co. for taxes for years 1908 and 1909.

On this 10th day of March, 1909, this matter coming on for hearing, the Northern Pacific Railway Co. appearing by its Tax Commissioner, Mr. M. T. Sanders, and the court being advised in the matter, it is ordered by the court that upon the payment of the 1908 taxes in full upon the valuation as equalized by the Board of Equalization and the dismissal of the appeal from the acts of the circuit court, and of the payment of the sum of \$433.11 on the 1907 taxes, that the sheriff be and he is hereby directed to remit the following amounts: Gen. tax, \$124.45; Gen. road, \$65.78; Special Tax R. D. No. 1, \$69.35; Spec. Tax R. D. No. 2, \$34.48; Spec. Tax R. D. No. 3, \$112.07; Spec. Tax S. D. No. 1, \$40.23; Spec. Tax S. D. No. 2, \$69.35; Spec. Tax S. D. No. 3, \$17.24; Spec